

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RABAT 06289 301712Z

41

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /091 W

----- 063202

R 301537Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7307

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 6289

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO AO UR

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN ATTITUDE ON ANGOLA

1. MOROCCAN MINISTER OF INFORMATION TAIBI BENHIMA, AT A DINNER DEC 26, DISCUSSED MOROCCAN ATTITUDE ON ANGOLA WITH ME. BENHIMA STATED THAT GOM WOULD CONTINUE ITS CURRENT POLICY OF AVOIDING RECOGNITION OF ANY ONE MOVEMENT IN ANGOLA. HE ALSO PREDICTED THAT NO UNITY OF APPROACH WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHIN OAU.

2. BENHIMA, LINKING ANGOLA AND SAHARA ISSUES, EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SOVIETS HAD USED UN DEBATE ON SAHARA AS PART OF A SMOKESCREEN COVERING THEIR OPERATIONS IN ANGOLA. IN HIS ASSESSMENT, ALGERIANS PLAYING KEY ROLE IN SUPPORT OF SOVIET EFFORTS IN ANGOLA THROUGH PERMITTING AIRLIFT VIA ALGERIA. THIS HAD GREATLY STRENGTHENED ALGERIAN BARGAINING POSITION WITH SOVIETS, RESULTING IN SOVIET TILT TOWARD ALGERIA ON SAHARA. GOM, HE SAID, SAW ANGOLA AS ONE STEP IN LONG PROCESS ENVISAGED BY SOVIETS AND CUBANS TO SUBVERT ONE AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AFTER ANOTHER, REPLACING PRESENT LEADERS WITH THOSE OF THEIR OWN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 RABAT 06289 301712Z

LIKING. BENHIMA ALSO MENTIONED MOROCCAN CONCERN OVER ATTITUDE

OF U.S. CONGRESS TOWARD ANGOLA, WHICH, HE PREDICTED, WOULD HAVE HIGHLY ADVERSE IMPACT ON ALREADY "WEAK AND WORRIED" AFRICAN CONTINENT.

3. MEANWHILE, FONMIN MANDUNGU OF ZAIRE ARRIVED IN RABAT DEC 22 WITH PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM MOBUTU TO KING HASSAN. HE HAD TALKS WITH KING, PRIMIN AND FONMIN ON BILATERAL RELATIONS AND BRIEFED THEM ON ANGOLA SITUATION, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL MEDIA. MANDUNGU TOLD PRESS OAU MUST HELP ANGOLANS ARRIVE AT SOLUTION "BY THEMSELVES" AND THAT ZAIRE NEUTRAL WITH REGARD TO THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. MOBUTU MESSAGE, ACCORDING TO ONE PRIVATE SOURCE, SAW SOVIET AIM AS ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTROL IN ANGOLA AND APPEALED TO KING TO HELP PERSUADE AFRICAN STATES TO DENOUNCE SOVIET INTERVENTION.

4. WE ALSO HEAR FROM NIGERIAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL THAT A DELEGATION VISITED RECENTLY WITH PRO-MPLA MESSAGE FOR KING FROM BRIGADIER MURTALA. NIGERIAN SAID KING DID NOT GRANT VISITORS AN AUDIENCE, HOWEVER; THEY WERE RECEIVED ONLY AT MFA WORKING LEVEL, AND GIVEN HARD TIME FOR NIGERIA'S COMPARATIVE LACK OF CONCERN OVER SAHARA.

5. COMMENT: FONMIN MANDANGU'S WARM RECEPTION IS CLEARLY RELATED TO ZAIRE'S STRONG SUPPORT FOR MOROCCO ON SAHARA AT UN, AND TWO SIDES PRESUMABLY ALSO HAD MUCH IN COMMON IN ATTITUDES TOWARD ANGOLA. BENHIMA'S COMMENTS REFLECT MOUTING GOM CONCERN OVER SOVIET ROLE IN AFRICA, AND PARTICULARLY OVER SOVIET SUPPORT FOR ALGERIA ON SAHARA. MOROCCANS NEVERTHELESS SEEM TO US UNLIKELY TO BECOME INVOLVED IN DENOUNCING USSR DIRECTLY OR IN TRYING TO PERSUADE OTHERS TO DO SO. WHILE MOROCCAN RELATIONS WITH USSR ARE STILL COOL FOLLOWING SOVIET ROLE AT UN, GOM HAS MADE EFFORT TO POINT UP TO SOVIETS THAT MOSCOW HAS A DEFINITE STAKE IN GOOD RELATIONS WITH RABAT. GOM, WE WOULD JUDGE, PROBABLY SEES LITTLE TO BE GAINED NOW FROM PUSHING SOVIETS TOO FAR. AT SAME TIME, BENHIMA'S COMMENTS FURTHER STRENGTHEN OUR VIEW THAT GOM NOT WAVERING FROM OAU LINE ON ANGOLA, AND WILL PROBABLY BACK IT WITH DISCREET DETERMINATION AT OAU CONFERENCE, ALTHOUGH HERE AGAIN WE WOULD NOT EXCEPT GOM TO BE IN THE FOREFRONT.

NEUMANN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 RABAT 06289 301712Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RECOGNITION, PERSONAL OPINION, LIBERATION FRONTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975RABAT06289
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750450-0375
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975124/aaaaadhv.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <30 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOROCCAN ATTITUDE ON ANGOLA
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, AO, UR, MO, CG, (BENHIMA, AHMED TAIBI), (MANDUNGU BULA NYATI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006